Performance in International Sports

1203. DR KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our performance in international sports remains dismal and poor;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage young sportsmen around the country to reach international standards through special coaching camps;

(c) whether there is a Central scheme for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Our performance has improved but further improvement is necessary. In the 1998 Asian Games, the Indian contingent won 7 gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze medals which is better than India's performance in the 1994 Asian Games. In this Asian Games, India regained its glory in Hockey by winning a gold medal after 32 years by beating South Korea. The Indian Hockey team, 2 canoers, 3 boxers and a shooter have qualified for the 2000 Olympic Games to be held in Sydney, Australia in November, 2000.

The Indian Badminton team has qualified for the Elite World Group in the Thomas Cup.

(b) The Government of India (Department of Youth Affairs and Sports), Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federation for different disciplines have been working in tandem for achieving better results by Indian Sports persons. Talented sports persons in the identified disciplines are being provided nutritious diet, proper coaching facilities including the services of foreign coaches, imported sports equipment etc. Sports Scientists are attached to the national campers for assessing their performance and to enhance their performance further. Talented children in the sub-junior/junior level age group are spotted and nurtured for grooming them to achieve excellence at the national/international level through the various sports promotion schemes of Sports Authority of India. Talented children under these schemes are provided proper coaching facilities, scientific support and nutritious diet.

(c) and (d) A new scheme called ""Scheme for Assisting Promising Sports persons and Supporting Personnel" has been introduced wherein promising sports persons can be given amounts upto Rs. 5 lakhs for equipment, training, engagement of coaches and scientific support.

MR CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 O'clock.

The House then adjourned at fourteen minutes past eleven of the clock, till two of the clock.